

## Assurance and escalation report

### Report from the Quality and Safety Committee:

Date the meeting took place: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Report to the: Board (May 28<sup>th</sup> 2020)

#### Key discussion points and matters to be escalated:

Our Trust must be ready for a longer-term COVID-19 'rebound' effect. This will and indeed has changed the epidemiology of mental health locally and beyond, we are beginning to experience a period of increased admissions and changes in presenting conditions. The Committee heard that there had been an increasing trend of admissions to wards that had previously run under usual occupancy levels. Through the Care Group updates, the Committee will continue to be sighted on occupancy levels within Trust services and will monitor related trends.

This effect on our Trust could be exacerbated by a second wave of COVID-19 illnesses, which will also have a broader system impact.

The above points are likely to lead to an increase in staff fatigue. The Trust must seriously consider the sustainability and emotional resilience of our human resource, at all levels. The Committee noted the various ongoing staff support mechanisms that have been strengthened and put in place in response to the pandemic.

The ongoing work on reducing the risk of preventable harm through ligature-related incidents has been delayed; the organisation should monitor this delay and establish solutions to remedy this specific threat to patient safety as soon as is able.

The Committee welcomed sight of the Quality Impact Assessment document. It was accepted by Executive and Non-Executive members that the document required revision; especially in its relationship to the Care Trust Way, a more obvious focus on patient centredness, and to demonstrate clear triangulation of feedback on quality.

The Committee also reviewed the organisation's Quality Goals for 2019/20 and 2020/22 and advised that these goals should reinforce the relationship between quality and the Care Trust Way integrating any organisational learning.

#### Assurance received

Care Group presentations demonstrated considerable system integrity and best use of resources. No obvious threat to safety or quality is apparent. It is also clear that innovation appears to be a constant feature of our management of this crisis. External partnerships continue to be strengthened and enhanced.

Once again, the Committee extends sincere thanks for the immense effort that has been expended to manage this crisis, by our various teams. We have maintained safe and effective care, and continued to recognise, and where possible respond, to the burden carried by our staff.

The Committee welcomed the presentation of Dashboard in line with the revised quality governance reporting framework. The data presented covered the March 2020 reporting period and a discussion took place at the Committee on how this work may be further developed in line with the developments of the revised risk management framework to ensure that they are dynamic.

The Committee noted that phase one of the Care Quality Commission action log had been approved virtually by members of the Committee and members of the Mental Health Legislation Committee.

As part of the COVID-19 update to the Committee, they noted that defective face mask had been provided to the Trust from an external supplier. The face masks have all been recalled with new stock reissued accordingly.  
Significant Assurance had been received as a rating of the Internal Audit report on the Trust's governance framework that supports the Board sub-committee meetings.

**Report completed by:** Gerry Armitage, 20<sup>TH</sup> May 2020